

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 SSO-00 PM-03 SP-02
L-01 IGA-01 MC-01 EB-04 INR-05 CIAE-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00
INRE-00 /045 W
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O 091400Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7263
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
SECDEF WASHDC//ISA//IMMEDIATE
SECDEF WASHDC//ISA(SA)//DSAA IMMEDIATE
JCS WASHDC
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
DA WASHDC
CDR MIRCOM REDSTONE ARSENAL AL

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 0791

LIMDIS

USCINCEUR EXCLUSIVE FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, KU
SUBJECT: KUWAIT I HAWK PROGRAM: PROBLEM OF EGYPTIAN AIR DEFENSE
ADVISORS

REF: (A) CAIRO 2222 (NOTAL), (B) KUWAIT 695, (C) 76 KUWAIT 5841

1. I AM MOST SENSITIVE TO THE CONCERN EXPRESSED BY
AMBASSADOR EILTS IN REF A AND, INDEED, THIS WAS ONE OF THE PRINCIPAL
REASONS WHY I ORIGINALLY FAVORED OUR GRANTING DISCLOSURE
POLICY EXCEPTIONS FOR EGYPTIAN MILITARY AIR DEFENSE ADVISORS
SECONDED TO KUWAIT ARMED FORCES. UNFORTUNATELY, HOWEVER,
THERE IS NO REAL ROLE FOR THE EGYPTIAN ADVISORS TO PLAY IN
KUWAIT AIR DEFENSE OTHER THAN IN CONNECTION WITH US SYSTEMS,
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OW WHICH IHAWK MISSILE IS THE CENTERPIECE. AS LONG AS
THE EGYPTIANS ARE PRESENT ON THE KUWAITI SCENE, THE POSSIBILITY
EXISTS THAT THEY MAY GAIN ACCESS TO AT LEAST SOME IHAWK
CLASSIFIED DATA. OF COURSE, WE DO HAVE A TECHNICAL SECURITY
AGREEMENT WITH KUWAIT WHICH WE EXPECT THE KUWAITIS TO HONOR.
OUR LEGITIMATE EXPECTATION IS THAT THEY WILL STRIVE TO DO SO.

2. WITH THE ABOVE IN MIND, AND IN AN EFFORT TO MEET CAIRO'S CONCERN, I WOULD LIKE TO OFFER THE FOLLOWING PROPOSAL FOR CONSIDERATION OF DEPT AND DOD. OUR SCHEDULED MEETING OF FEB 10 HAS BEEN POSTPONED BY DEFENSE MINISTER SHAIKH SA'AD AL-ABDULLA UNTIL FEB. 15. NO REASON WAS GIVEN FOR THE POST-PONEMENT, BUT I IMAGINE SHAIKH SA'AD HAS NOT YET FOUND A SOLUTION TO THIS DEILMMA, WHICH PRESENTS GOK WITH ESSENTIALLY SAME PROBLEM--FROM ANOTHER ANGLE--AS ENVISAGED BY AMBASSADOR EILTS. I AM NOT CERTAIN SHAIKH SA'AD WILL HAVE A SOLUTION BY FEB. 15.

3. MY PROPOSED LINE OF APPROACH IS THAT, AT THAT MEETING, I WOULD LISTEN FIRST TO WHAT SHAIKH SA'AD HAS TO SAY AND, IF HE TURNS AGAIN TO ME FOR ANY SUGGESTIONS AS HE DID ON OUR FEB. 3 MEETING (REF B), I WOULD MAKE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:
(A) SUGGEST THAT HE TRANSFER THE EGYPTIAN AIR DEFENSE ADVISORS FROM THE KUWAIT AIR DEFENSE FORCE (KADF) COMMAND AND ATTACH THEM AS SPECIAL ADVISORS FOR AIR DEFENSE TO THE CHIEF OF STAFF, KUWAIT ARMED FORCES. THIS WOULD HAVE EFFECT OF REMOVING THEM BOTH ORGANIZATIONALLY FROM QUASI-COMMAND FUNCTIONS IN KADF AND PHYSICALLY FROM KADF HEAD-QUARTERS LOCATED AT MILITARY AIRPORT. (US AIR DEFENSE ADVISORS WOULD BE STATIONED AT KADF HQ WHERE IHAWK CLASSIFIED DATA WOULD BE STORED AND CONSULTED.)
(B) REMIND SHAIKH SA'AD OF GOK COMMITMENT IN TECHNICAL SECURITY AGREEMENT TO PROTECT US CLASSIFIED DATA.
(C) REQUEST HIS APPROVAL OF DISPATCH OF IHAWK SITE SELECTION AND COMMUNICATIONS SURVEY TEAMS TO KUWAIT IN MARCH, NOTING THAT, BECAUSE OF CLASSIFIED DATA INVOLVED, AGYPTIAN ADVISORS WOULD NOT BE PERMITTED TO PARTICIPATE
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IN ACTUAL SURVEY, ALTHOUGH IF DESIRED BY MOD, THEY COULD REVIEW RESULTS OF TEAMS' DETERMINATIONS WITHOUT ACCESS TO CLASSIFIED DATA USED IN THIS CONNECTION.
(D) RECOMMEND IMMEDIATE SIGNATURE OF USLOK STAFF FMS CASE AAA, SO THAT AT LEAST ONE OF THREE AIR DEFENSE ADVISORS PROVIDED FOR THERIN COULD BE PRESENT FOR SITE SURVEY AND REMAINDER COULD BE ON BOARD WHEN KUWAITI GRADUATES OF IHAWK TRAINING IN US RETURN (FIRST ONES SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE HERE JUNE/JULY).
(E) SUGGEST, AS EVENTUAL SOLUTION TO EGYPTIAN ADVISOR PROBLEM, THAT THE THREE EGYPTIAN OFFICERS NOT BE REPLACED AS THEIR CURRENT ONE-YEAR TOURS OF SERVICE IN KUWAIT EXPIRE, IN MARCH, AUGUST, AND NOVEMBER 1977, RESPECTIVELY. (THE MOST KNOWLEDGEABLE, HIGHEST-RANKING EGYPTIAN WOULD LEAVE IN MARCH.)

4. COMMENT: WHILE THIS IS NOT THE MOST IDEAL SOLUTION, IF IT WERE APPROVED BY WASHINGTON AND WERE ACCEPATABLE TO SHAIKH SA'AD, IT WOULD HELP OBVIATE A POTENTIAL

POLITICAL PROBLEM AND MINIMIZE A SECURITY ONE. (I HAVE NO ASSURANCE, OF COURSE, THAT SHAIKH SA'AD WILL BUY THIS SCHEME.) THE EGYPTIAN ADVISORS, WITH THEIR CONSIDERABLE AIR DEFENSE EXPERIENCE, CAN MAKE A PROFESSIONAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE KAF WITHOUT SPECIFIC ACCESS TO CLASSIFIED DATA. NATURALLY, IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE TO HAVE THEM DEPART ALTOGETHER, BUT, IF SHAIKH SA'AD WILL AGREE TO THEIR BEING PHASED OUT, THIS IS A SITUATION WE COULD LIVE WITH. IN ANY EVENT, AS KUWAITI OFFICERS, WITH THEIR US TRAINING, GAIN EXPERIENCE AND CONFIDENCE IN THEMSELVES AS WELL AS THEIR US ADVISORS, THE GOK'S PERCEIVED NEED TO DEPEND ON EGYPTIAN ADVISORS WILL DISAPPEAR.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: THAT DEPT AND DOD REVIEW THIS PROPOSED LINE OF APPROACH AND, IF FOUND ACCEPTABLE, AUTHORIZE ME TO SUGGEST IT TO THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE, PROVIDING HE HAS NOT COME UP WITH A SATISFACTORY SOLUTION OF HIS
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OWN. PLEASE ADVISE NLT FEB. 14.
MAESTRONE

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